

A  
**SERMON**

**P R E A C H E D**

Upon the Fifth of *November, 1678.*

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**St. CLEMENTS Danes.**

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By **GREGORY HASCARD, D. D.**

Rector of the said Church and one of his  
Majesties Chaplains in ordinary.

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IMPRIMATUR

*Jan. 22.*  
1678.

*Gnil. Jane.*

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**LONDON,**

Printed by S. and B. G. for William Crook at  
the Sign of the Green Dragon without  
Temple-Bar, 1679.



To the Right Honourable  
**J O H N**  
Earl of *Exeter*, my Noble Lord  
and Patron.

MY LORD,

**I** Am very sensible how much unworthy this following Discourse is of your Lordships judgement, which nature made quick and solid; and Books and studies have advanc'd: yet however, being earnestly importun'd, by some Friends of considerable Rank and Quality, to expose it to common view, and thinking this might be a fit opportunity publickly to acknowledge that mighty favour, which your Lordship was pleased so generously to give, I have ventur'd to inscribe it to your Lordships name, choosing rather to undergo many censures upon it than miss one occasion to evidence to the world how much

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## Epistle Dedicatory.

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much I stand oblig'd to your Lordships goodness, for what I there enjoy, where this was preach'd, I own to your Lordships Title and undoubted Patronage, and my obligation swells the bigger, being involv'd in that common debt, which the whole Nation owes to your Lordships Family, one of which was so happy an instrument in discovering this bloody Plot, and twould be hard for your Great and Noble Family to bear the brand, that some hot headed Romanists have set, calling this Plot only Cecils contrivance, and for those that reap'd the benefit not to acknowledge the loyalty and good service of a Cecil done to Church and State, and therefore upon these and many more accounts with all Gratitude and honour I shall ever indeavour to express my self,

Your Lordships most Humble  
and most obliged Servant.

GREGORY HASCARD.

A

# S E R M O N

P R E A C H E D

Upon the Fifth of November.

Psal. 124. Ver. 7.

*The Snare is broken and we are escaped.*

**W**ether this Psalm is only Prophetical, and respects the future Calamities of the Jewish Church, and her Deliverances by Divine Providence, as the Babylonish Captivity, and the Persecution of *Antiochus* : Or whether it is only Gratulatory and expressive, of the Delivery and escape from the intended Bondage and Misery threatned by the *Philistin* and *Idumean* Armies, and other neighbouring Nations ; which often made their invasions into the Jewish Kingdome : Or whether the Royal Psalmist sings in his publick or private Captivity , for Mercies conferred upon his

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single

single self, or else his People, or Government. Or whether it be a mixed Song, Divine Writ frequently carrying a double force and fence; looking back upon things or favours past and gone, and forwards, as Types and Presidents, to prefigurate things to come. I find the Learned divided among themselves, and 'tis not very material to determine, who hath the exactest truth on his side: It serving the Interest of the Christian Church, that it is a lively description of a rageing Enemy under the shape and figure of a ravenous and devouring Beast. *Ver. 3.* His number, force, and violence is pointed out under the Emblem of a torrent, deluge, or inundation. *Ver. 4.* The danger, subtlety contriv'd and laid, undiscovered as yet; and slyly carried on, set down, *Ver. 7.* in the former part. But the unsuccessfulness and defeat of all these approaching dangers and calamities, by the vigilant and tender eye of Providence, in the later part, *The Snare is broken, and we are escaped.*

Two things are considerable in these words.

1. The imminent danger and misery the Church was in, by the plots and machinations of Wicked men,

2. Her

2. Her miraculous and providential deliverance.

What was then the condition of the Jewish, as tho it was a type or prediction, is now the State of a Christian Church ; the Danger and the Enemy, the Providence and Deliverance very much alike in Features and Complexion : The truth and certainty of this bloody Treason is so well known and confirmed, that none besides a Romish Zealot, that hath pawn'd all his Faith upon the pretended infallible Chair, or which is as good, the doting Legends of their Saints, can have the brow and confidence to call it in question. This traiterous Design being evidenc'd from the judgement of Great and Impartial Men, who from an obscure Light, a dark Letter to my Lord Mounteagle, made it as clear as the Noon Sun, to the satisfaction of King, Lords, and Commons, which caused the consequent Acts of Parliament to call it an Hellish Conspiracy, not only of the Jesuits, but the Seminary Priests, from the Confession of the Principal Actors, the Evidences product, at their Arraignment, the acknowledgement of Romanists themselves ; one whereof, the judicious and sincere Historian *Thuanus*, hath wrote

the History of it, that we may safely say, 'tis more fairly prov'd, than many Articles of faith in the Church of *Rome*, 'tis the art and cunning of that Church to keep their bloody Principles of assassinating Kings, and murthering their heretical Subjects, secret and close, till some fair opportunity calls them out for publick use, and condemns the design and attempt, if not prosperous; and disavows it to the ignorant Vulgar, and the unsanctified ears of Hereticks, tho she applauds it in Conclaves and Cloysters. But when <sup>\*</sup>one of their infallible Bishops called the Gospel, that Fable of Christ, *And Luther and Beza* by them must be affirmed to have died Roman Catholicks; and that

<sup>\* Leo 10. to</sup> *Cardinal Bembo his Secretary.*

<sup>\* Dr. Pridaux's Prelation devisibilitate Ecclesiae.</sup> <sup>\* Sir Edw. Sands Spec. Europ.</sup> *Junius* was cloven footed like an Ox, Providence having set a mark of Schism upon him: *And that* all English men, by the excommunication that they are under, had contracted *Astrom Diabolicum*, an hellish Blackness, and have contriv'd such fine Stories for the sake of their Vulgar, and more ignorant Proselytes; who must know no more than their wile Guides will give them leave: We may allow them to call this Conspiracy a Puritan Plot, the State-craft of *Cecil*, or what they please. 'Tis not our business now to prove there is such a place as

*Rome*

*Rome*, or the truth of this barbarous attempt, we shall only consider it in such circumstances, as may advance the Providence and Goodness of God, and tune our praises and gratitude for it, the end of this days celebration.

1. The cruelty of the designed Fact. Had the *Britiſh* Church been Heretical or Schismatical, had she swerv'd from the Christian Faith into the Mahometan, or renounc'd her baptismal Vows, and degenerated into the Pagan superstition or idolatry; is this the way to cement the breach and difference? are these proper methods to confute Errors? is this the only wholesome counsel and reason to renew our repentance, and make us Christians once again? is to murther and kill, to convert? is to be baptised in blood, to destroy our bodies, to bring our souls to Christ? Such ways for Conversion were utterly unknown, and never thought of by Saint Peter, and the first Planters of the Christian Faith, and are highly unsuitable to, and unworthy of Christ and his Religion, which became victorious, and spread over the World, not by frauds or cruelty, but by miracles and argument, by patience, sufferings, and the innocence of its Teachers and Disciples: And therefore its Author, *Jesus*,

tho solicited by his Disciples, to call down, like *Elias*, fire from heaven (according to his mighty power) to destroy his fiercest Adversaries, the greatest obstacle to the propagation of his Religion, rebukes and corrects them, and tells them, *They knew not of what Spirit they were of*, and that this temper was Ignorance and Fury, and not true Zeal and Faith ; and therefore he would never in his greatest straits and miseries, call down the Angels from above to his guard and assistance, or like his Type *Moses*, turn the Rivers into streams of blood, but still continued delivering his Fathers Will, in safe and gentle methods, with prayers for, and compassion upon his Persecutors, resigning up his Soul into the hands of him that judgeth right: For the sake of Christianity and the peace of Christendom, all good men wish, that his pretended Successor at *Rome* was heir to, and possess this gentle and easie temper, as well as aimed at his power and jurisdiction. But alas ! to the scandal of Christianity, if we search into the Records of Time, and turn over the History of all Ages, and read the barbarous usages of the Pagan World, we can either equal or over act them in the butcheries and Massacres of the Romish Church, that

that pretended mild and holy Mother; so numerous are the files of Martyrs, that have died under their bloody hands, that we can reckon them by as large numbers as St. John doth *Rev. 7. 5.* his Catalogue of sealed Saints, of the Tribe of *Judah* twelve thousand. For so the Historians tell us, that in the French Massacre in the space of three Moneths, an hundred thousand were slain, by the instigation of the tender Vicar of Christ, and the most Christian King of *France*. Murthered of the *Albigenses* and *Waldenses* ten hundred thousand. Killed in the Duke of *Alva*'s persecution thirty six thousand: and in the holy Inquisition in the space of thirty years, an hundred and fifty thousand, and what should I tell you of the times of Pope *Julius*, and our own *Marian* dayes; of the Spanish cruelty to the poor Americans, or the bloody persecution in *Ireland*, wherein an hundred thousand Protestants were murthered by Papish hands. What Kingdom or People have not felt their slaughtering principles, either by open violence, or secret poysoning, or stabbing; and this dayes brave attempt surpasses all the great exploits of all their bloody Predecessors; and every where so many have been, and are their cruelties, that that good Author, Mr. *Mede*, observes

*Dr. More in  
his Divine  
Dialogues  
out of Vige-  
rius and  
Peyonius.*

observes, that Papal persecutions do equalize or exceed the ten famous persecutions of the Pagan Emperours : Here's the litteral Successor of Saint Peter, and out writes the Copy, arise Peter kill and eat ; and when they have spoke the Prologue by the murther of a worthy Person in order to as deep a Tragedy as this, our indignation must assign the Roman Bishops another Predecessor, his great Sire Romulus, \* wholaid the Walls of *Rome* in his Brothers blood; as tho *Rome* Pagans cruelties were all entailed, and ran in the blood of *Rome* Christian, and are now become so natural to her, being establisht by her Canons and Constitutions, that we must sooner expect an instrument out of a Cutlers Shop, than arguments out of a Jesuits Colledge for our conversion, giving us no other effect of her power of Miracles, but that she would this day have turned our Rivers into blood; not rememb'ring the wise mercy of that God, they say they adore, who when he reveng'd the sins of *Sodom* in showers of fire and brimstone, was careful least the Righteous should be swept away in the deluge: But here Prince and People, good and bad.

\* Some Romanists and the Reformed, must Plot. pag. 9. all promiscuously fall by one common blow,

\* Fraterno  
primi madue-  
runt sangu-  
ne muri.

to

to be the Pattern and President hereafter of  
learn'd Cruelty, that they dar'd to act what o-  
thers fear'd to think.

2. The Policy by which this Conspiracy  
was carried on, 'Twas called a snare in  
the *Psalrists* time, and so it may be just-  
ly now: Naked Truth and Integrity are  
powerful and successful by their native ar-  
guments and internal virtue; his villany and  
baseness, which call for stratagems and de-  
ceits, and live and thrive by political frauds.  
When *Rome* her self was to be baptised into  
Christianity, only the reason and Miracles of  
her great Apostles, their plainness and inte-  
grity, their constancy and resolution under  
persecution made the way, and caus'd the  
mighty Change and Conversion; but when  
she her self is to reclaim onely the errors  
of a dissenting Sister, Conclaves and Ca-  
bals, the State-craft of all their Frater-  
nities and Orders, the subtlety of all their  
Emissaries must combine together to carry on  
this black design: How strangely is Primitive  
Christianity among them that pretend to be  
its greatest Champions and Admirers, degene-  
rated from its first simplicity and open inno-  
cence into fraud and violence, inquisitions and

disguises ; cunning and artifice is their faith and piety, and the Court and Ceremony their Church, and their Bishop instead of universal Pastor merits better the title of Stateholder ; their Discipline and Cannons , their Articles of faith and Rules of manners , are coyn'd and fram'd to serve their power and Interest ; and Mysteries of Christianity are chang'd and become only secrets of the Papal Empire ; the design of their counsels and determinations are not to better and amend the lives of men, but to sway and govern Christendome. Good old Laws are relaxt , and new ones, call'd fundamental, cast, to raise a portion for a Neece, or to enrich a Cardinal Patron, and their Exchecquer brought into the Temple, and call'd the holy of holies ; that, what their Predecessors got by fraud , they might still keep by the same method ; the dreames and visions, the extasies and raptures, the miracles, and revelations, and other pious frauds, us'd and countenanc'd by the Church of *Rome* (who calls her self the only spouse of Christ) to drive on their secular interest, makes the Atheistical world conclude, that Jesus himself was only a great imposter, and joyned with his *Privy Council*, the twelve Apostles, onely design'd

design'd to set up a new goverment, or only to lay us down some rules to trade by, and the chief factory should be at *Rome*, a good School to teach men only policy and cun-  
ing; and for an instance of their policy, which they call the *Spirit of God*, take the time for the election of *Romes High-Priest*, when they pretend the *Spirit of God*, is as familiarly presiding, and as fully operating, as upon the day of *Pentecost*, or *baptisme of the blessed Jesus*, yet so wide are their differences, so clamorous their factions, their buying of voices, their setting up stakes, their tearing of scrutinies, their long disagreement (as from the death of *Clement the fourth*, two years and more) and other sly methods, that you may say of them, as an old Cardinal did, you must uncover the roofe of the house (so little room is left among them) for the holy Ghost to come upon them. And their famous *Tridentine Council*, was a better demonstration of their cunning than their faith, and integrity, wherein they fancy the *Spirit of God* guided their pens, influenc'd their heads, and moved their hearts, he being *totus in toto, & in qualibet parte*, and sent every day (\* as some then merrily said) from *Rome* *Hist. of the Counc. of Trent. pag.*

in a cloak-bag thither ; yet beside the lewdness of their definitions and decrees, so many were their wily methods, and their laborious arts, that the Recorder of *Florence*, or *Cesar Borgi*u**, seem'd rather to keep the Chair than the Spirit of God, and little of good Saint Peter among them, beside his Nets to draw some less discerning men into the fashion of their Religion, and therefore more eminent was Divine Providence, that discovered all these sly and subtle Serpents, that took them in their crafty wilynes, defeated their Counsels, and made them perish by their own designs.

2. The Loss that would have follow'd had this design taken effect : Which is two-fold.

1. Of the Lives and Blood of so many.
2. Of Religion.

1. Of the Lives and Blood of so many. To secure the peace and quiet of this Nation, and to fix Religion safe from its underminers, the Great Assembly meets, a learned and wise King (the Prince also, by them in the beginning of their Plot, concluded to be present) Nobility and Commons with their large Train and Attendants, the Flower and strength

strength of the Nation, the Church and State engrost, and enhouſ'd together, with their good design, stately buildings, and a Race of Kings sleeping in their Tombs, must by these Conſpirators, be made an whole burnt Sacrifice, and offer'd up to *Rome* ambition, and by one blow ſurpaſs, what ever *Plague* or *Famine*, *War* or common *Mortality*, in many years could bring to paſſ; and these would not have fallen alone, but *Laws* and *Liberties*, *Charters* and *Priviledges* would have died together, and have been buried in one common ruin: and all our peace and freedome would have ended in *Gibbets* and *Inquisitions*, *Torments* and heavy *Burdens*, and betrayed into a *Papal Bondage*: And this Land, that was never compleatly overcome by all the *Legions* and *Armies* of their *Pagan Emperors* in the ſpace of ſo many years, in a moments time, might have been conquered by *Romes* High *Priest*. \* For ſo *Catesby* (as my *Hiftorian* tells me) thought it not enough, that this, or that, or any ſingle *Person*, ſhould be aimed at, but that all together, and at the ſame time ſhould be comprehended in this *Conſpiracy*. For ſo he reasoned with himſelf, The King himſelf might many wayes.

\* *History of the Powder Plot out of Thuanus, pag. 5.*

be taken away, but this would be nothing as long as the Prince and the Duke of York were alive : Again, if they were remov'd, yet this would advantage nothing, so long as there remain'd a Parliament, so vigilant, so circumspect to whatever might happen : Or if the Parliament, or the Chief Members of it, could be destroyed, there would remain still the Peers of the Realm, so many prudent Persons, so many powerful Earls, addicted to that Party, whom they would hardly resist, and who by their Authority, Wealth, and Dependants would be able, if occasion should be, to restore things to their former state ; therefore not by delayes but at one blow, all were to be swallowed up, and so laudable an achievement was to be brought to effect altogether and at once. Thus did the Roman Eagle stoop to her prey, and the whole Land was got within her pounces, but, thanks be to God, who hath not given us as a prey to their teeth.

## 2. The Loss of Religion.

1. What might have been, had this Treason been successful. Had this Train of Powder and Designs been prosperous, what

a dismal choice had been proposed, to change your Religion, or to embrace a Stake, to violate your Faith and Conscience for the Romish Creed, or else Lives and Liberties, Fortunes and all the Endowments of Life must be sacrific'd; to Recant your Vows and sacred Oaths, or else to expect a perpetual Prison or a Flame, to suffer or comply, to have a Wrack either in Body or in Mind. Such hard proposals should have been the conditions of your *Peace*, and a severe contract it would have been to change the Religion of our Church, which we have Arguments and Reasons sufficient to confirm us, is pure, Primitive and Apostolical, into a Faith, that is but a Modern Contrivance and Innovation, begun by interest, made up of Fopperies and Falsehood, and carried on by Fraud and Violence. Such a Religion you must have had, which makes absurdities, Blasphemies and Contradictions Articles of Faith, teaching you how by virtue of Transubstantiation, you may admire the glorified Body of your Saviour above, yet mangle it,

it, adore, and devour it, at the same time here below, you should have been taught to make your Prayers and Addresses unto God in an unknown Tongue, whereby the dead, that sleep in the Tombs and Monuments of the Church, might have as good Devotion as the living in it, or if they understood any part of their Devotion, the work barely done, the nimbleness of their Lips and Fingers must satisfie for Zeal and intention of mind: you should have been taught, that, though you die with a load of sins, not thoroughly repented of and satisfy'd for, yet your kind Mother of *Rome* hath provided an intermediate place between Hell and you, a second venture from whence, by a Deputy Friend, a good Purse, and a kind Priest, you may be discharged, and be Crown'd a Saint in that Church. You must be content onely to Communicate in one kind, and be glad of the bread alone, for the dainty reason of the Lay mans beards, and the nice distinction of concomitance, yet point blank against your Saviours institution.

You

you must have been in that Church ( notwithstanding the Thunder and Lightning upon Mount *Sinai*, to shew their indispensible nature, when the Ten Commandments were deliver'd ) will afford you Nine only; or at least, use Art to conceal the Second, because it Glareſ too much upon their Adoration of Images, and Invocation of Saints; and the Curious Distinctions of their Schools and Caſuifts have eluded the force of all the rest. Such Priests, ſuch Temples, ſuch Devotions you must have had, ſo gay, ſo foppish, ſo full of Antick Postures, Scenes and Ceremonies, that you will find little difference between Old *Rome's* Theatres, and New *Rome's* Churches. Such a Religion is the *Romifh*, which Magnifies Christ in Hymns and Songs, Geſtures, and other lighter Services; yet Rivals him in his particular Power and Prerogative, in Adoring and Invoking Saints, ſome of which, while on Earth, were Vicious, and now we know not where they dwell; and others justly ſuspected, if ever they were in Being. The jolly Sinner in that Church needs not deſpair of his Salvation for want of Sincere Repentance, while Artificial Sighs and Customary Confefſions, Pilgrimages and gentle Whippings,

pings, Pardons and Indulgences so easily obtain'd by privileg'd Altars, *Agnus Dei's*, hallowed Swords, Roses, Hats, Church-yards, and other pretty Knacks and Devices ; while a little Dole to the Poor, and more to the Priests, for a lusty Absolution upon Attrition, and other faint Compositions with God, and Bribes for Divine Justice will serve the turn. Such a Church you should have been in, who, notwithstanding her Pretences to Infallibility, can give her Members no sufficient Assurance to judge by, whether they shall be saved or no; not only from their known way of Arguing, call'd Circle, proving the Scriptures from their Church, and their Church again from the Scriptures, but from the Doctrine of Intention<sup>a</sup>, ( which is an Article of Faith at *Rome* ) that if the Priest do not really Intend to do, what he outwardly pretends to do, all his Performance is Ineffectual; and this perverse Intention of the Priest is not to be supply'd by God himself, <sup>b</sup> faith one of their Casuists, and that the Priest may be so perverse as not to Intend. <sup>c</sup> Another of their Doctors doth suppose, and states the Case where it may be allow'd; so that though you be Baptized, Communicated, and Absolved, ( things absolutely

<sup>a</sup> *Diane Compend.* p. 36.

<sup>b</sup> *Ibid.*

<sup>c</sup> *Escobar Tract.*  
<sup>7. Exam. 6.</sup>  
<sup>Num. 41. p. 867.</sup>

solutely necessary to Salvation by their Confession,) yet you cannot certainly judge whether you shall be sav'd, except you have the privilege of God, and know the Heart and Intentions of your Priest. Such a Religion you must have profest'd, whose chiefest Doctors and Guides of Conscience teach men to break all the Ties and Ligaments of Humane Society and Conversation, telling their Disciples that Faith is not to be kept with Hereticks; directing them how to Lye Artificially, to Equivocate and Forswear, to Cheat in Bargaining, to baffle Contracts, to exempt their Priests, though Guilty of Treason, from the Secular Judge; and before an Ecclesiastical one 'tis very difficult to Convict them, their <sup>a</sup> Witenesses must be so many. These Guides teach Subjects to Rebell and Murther, Children to be Disobedient, Servants Unfaithful; by which, and many other lewder Doctrines, Skin'd over by nice Distinctions, by which they instruct their Proselytes only more Learnedly to sin; they would make the World only a greater Robery, and reduce it to its Ancient <sup>b</sup> Cha-  
For these and  
os. In short, such a Religion the Bishops of the  
Rome would have forc'd you into, whose Faith  
is False and Erroneous; the Rules of Manners  
laid

For a card-  
inal 72. for a  
Bishop 64. See  
Diana Com-  
pend. p. 85.

much more of the  
same nature, see  
the Causitical  
writers of the  
Church of  
Rome, as San-  
chez, Azorius,  
Lessius, &c.

Prov. 24.21.

laid down by many of her Penitentiaries and great Doctors perswading and countenancing Vice and Debauchery; her Devotions Childish and gay, and propagated by Fraud and Cruelty. Taking therefore this short view of the *Romish* Way, and being fully perswaded that we are Baptized into this Church of *England*, whose Faith is Primitive, Pure, and Apostolical, her Rules for Manners only leading to Virtue and Goodnes, her Discipline wholsome and proper, and her Devotions decent and Manly; let us stick fast unto her, and take *Solomon's* Advice, *My Son, Fear thou the Lord and the King, but meddle not with them that are given to change.*

2. What Religion hath lost, though the Design was Unsuccessfull, yet the Attempt makes the Crime Scandalous and Horrid, and Detestable by all Mankind. Christianity by the intended Blow lyes a Bleeding: *Tell it not in Gath, publish it not in Askelon.* When the Uncircumcised, the *Pagan* Emperours and *Mahometan* Princes shall hear of such Barbarous Attempts upon the Persons of Princes, such Bloody Villanies and Massacres upon their Subjects, and That by her that Arrays her self with the fine Names of the only Catholick, Apostolical, Infallible, most Holy, and only Chri-

Christian Church; and Perjuries and Murders, Rebellion and Disloyalty are defended by the Nice Doctrines of their Schools, will they not conclude in Disdain : Here's the Principles of a Christian, these Spring from their Bibles, these are the Doctrines and Precepts of their Commander and Master, Jesus? Are these the tame Lambs and Doves of Christianity? Are these they that fear Damnation for Rebellion? Are these the gentle Martyrs for Honesty and Peace, for Conscience and Obedience? Are these the meek Servants of the Bishop of *Rome*, that calls himself the Servant of Servants? Christians! Away with them to the Lyons and Fires again. Let us invade their Territories, set up our *Alcoran* for their Bibles, and our *Mahomet* for their *Christ*, against whom we dare not Rebell, lest we forfeit that Luxurious Paradise. The Bloody Doctrines and Rebellious Practices of the Infallible Chair hath stain'd more the Beauty of Religion, and stop'd its progress and Victories over the Superstitions and Idolatries of the Gentile World, and lost more Profelytes, than ever their busie Emissaries, their *Christians* and other zealous Planters have Converted and obtained. Will not an *Indian* Prince be afraid

of

Levi-

of embracing the Christian Religion, lest he lose his own Dominions, Life, and his Paternal Religion too, at the same time, which he now holds by a surer Tenure? Is it not a clear Argument and demonstration to the *Chinesian* Emperour to renounce his Idolatry, and be Baptized Christian, when he shall read how *Henry the Fourth* and *Frederick the First* (as one observes) fought threescore Battels more than *Julius Cæsar*, stirr'd up by the Peaceable Popes of *Rome*? Is it not a fair perswasion for all Princes to become Christians, when they shall hear of the Deprivations and Excommunications, and that unlimited Power of the *Romish* Priest, in disposing Crowns and Sceptres, upon the pretence of Profuseness or Breach of Faith, for Perjury or Magick, for Sacrilege or Heresie, for Schism, or Violence to a Cardinal, and for many other Causes laid down by their flattering Casuists, or for almost any thing, when his Holiness is out of Humour? and they give us a President of *Childerick*, who was deprived from being King of *France*, because he was a little easie natur'd, not given to Action, nor so wise as his Neighbours, whereby he was unfit for Rule; <sup>a</sup> though *Benedict the Ninth*

at Twelve years of Age was made Vicar of Christ, and his little Holiness was as Infallible as the best of them, and fitter for the Rattles of their Devotions than any. When they shall read of that Jolly Pope *Sixtus Quintus* Excommunicating *Elizabeth of England*, and publishing a *Croisada* against her, and *Henry the Third of France*; of *Gregory the Fourteenth*, Excommunicating and Damning *Henry the 4<sup>th</sup>*, renewed by *Clement the Eighth*; and the turbulent carriage of *Paul the Fifth*, in the Reign of King *James*; and thence (as a good Author notes) as it's natural consequence, this Black Conspiracy came; for seldom was the Thunder of Excommunication discharged, but a Showre of Blood followed. When *Adrian the Fourth* shall chide *Frederick Barbarossa* the Emperour, for holdin in the Stirrup wrong, and tread upon his Neck, adding Profaneness to his Insolency, in applying the Prophecy belonging to Christ, Psalm.91.13.  
*\*Thou shalt go upon the Lion and Adder, the young Lion and the Dragon shalt thou tread under thy feet:* When they shall read how Fowles His.  
*<sup>b</sup>Callistus the Second* had *William the Great* <sup>252.</sup> Duke of *Apulia* as his Foot Boy, how *Celestine the Third* put on, and kick'd off again in

in Disdain the Emperour *Henry* the Sixth his Crown: When the Pagan Princes shall read of King *John* resigning his Crown upon his knees to *Pandulphus* the Pope's Legate, and of the Canonizing of *Thomas a Becket*, that Insolent, Sawcy, and Rebellious Saint; and invoking of his Blood as meritorious: and the whipping his Prince and Master *Henry* the Second by the Monks of *Canterbury*; and that *Champion* and *Garnet* for Rebellion and Treason should justly forfeit their Lives here in *England*, and yet be reputed Martyrs, and have Glories about their Heads at *Rome*: that there can be the Methods to make Kings the Nursing Fathers, and Queens the Nursing Mothers of the Church? Will it not make them believe that Christianity spread, and became Victorious, not by Patience, Goodnes, and Martyrdome, but by Falshood and Invasions, Murthers and Powerful Armies? No Sect of Christians have made True Religion more give ground, than those of the *Romish* Communion, who engross Christianity, and all the World are *Hereticks* and *Pagans* but themselves. Their Adoration of Images are a Scandal and Offence unto the *Jew*, whose Law is so rigorous

rous and strait against them ; and their Doctrine of Transubstantiation is made up of so many Contradictions and Blasphemies, that it made the Arabian Philosopher Averroes say, *Terrarum Orbem peragrandō nullam Religionem Christianā deteriorem inveni, quæ ipsum Deum quem tollit devorat* ; in all my travels I have found no sort of Religion worse than the Christians, which Devours that God it pretends to adore ; and their many other soft and delicious Doctrines, have caused the Christian World to degenerate into Atheistical and Vicious Lives ; and to conclude Christianity is nothing else but a Politick Maxim, to reduce Fools and Madmen and credulous Subjects into awe. Thus was this Church and State struck at, but Christianity felt the Blow ; and while St. Peter's Successor draws his Sword, pretending to defend his Saviour, and propagate his Religion, his Master receives the Wound, and he Crucifies the Lord of Life again, and puts Religion to an open shame.

Lastly, the opportunity God took for this Deliverance. Just when the Snare, and these Conspirators were ready ; just when these proud Waves, our Enemies, in a violent Torrent were all coming, and this horrid Mon-

ster was begotten, grown, and thriven in the teeming Womb, and ready to be brought forth; Divine Providence interposeth, strangleth it in its Birth, to the raine of its Parent. the Deity permits the Designs of Satan and his black Confederates to blossom and to grow, and through all the Intrigues and mysterious turnings of State and Policy, to arrive at their full maturity; then the Invincible Hand is stretched out, and crops them, to display his Omnipotent Arm more, to make his Presence and his Wisdom more sought for and reverenc'd, and to be stronger Arguments for a grateful Mind. When the Trains and Methods of Tyrants and malicious Men are so well contriv'd and laid, that their Passions begin to swell, and their hopes are brisk and smiling, and nothing but Victories and Praie, Triumphs and Success do-rove within their Fancy, an unexpected Providence stops them in their full Cariere, blasts their hopeful Spring, and all ends in a Dream. The Tyrant waxes pale, and mourns, curses his Confederates, perhaps that *Machiavel* below, that he and they are not Stronger than Omnipotence, and more Politick than the All-wise. When wicked Designs are in the

Egg,

Egg, they may be crush'd and prevented by the slow and dull Methods of Humane Wisdom, an easie hand ; but when they hatch into a Serpent or Basilisk, breathing out nothing but Death, and Poyson, and Despair, and Palene's fits on every Brow, this Danger calls for an Infallible Eye, and Omnipotent Arm for its Deliverer : Extremity, and the utmost minute of Cure, are the Seasons for Divine Mercy : When *Hezekiah's* wound is become Incurable, when *St. Peter* and his Church begin to sink ; when *Sennacherib's* Regiments encompass and shut up *Jerusalem*, when Counsels and Armies fail, and the Secular Arm doth shrink, and nothing but a Wonder can prevent Despair ; a Provident Eye looks down from above, Defeats the Enemy, and Crowns the Day with Victory and Succes. Thus did *Englands* Church and State both lye like *Isaak* upon the pyle, the Flame and Conspirators are ready for the Bloody Sacrifice ; but an Angel thrusts his hand through the Cloud, a Bird of the Air tells the matter, and a Ram is caught by his Horns in the Thicket ; the Conspirators are their own Ruine, and now the cause of our Joy and Triumph, which leads

to the last part, *We are delivered* : which commands us these two Duties.

First, A Faithful Remembrance of this Mercy of God.

Secondly a future Dependance upon Providence.

First, A Faithful Remembrance of this Mercy of God. This is all the return we can make for Divine Favours, passionately to resent and commemorate them. But alas ! Good deeds, though the Condition is so cheap, do dye like Men, and are buried in the Grave of Oblivion, and have seldom a Resurrection in the mind of the Receivers, thinking it meanness to make an acknowledgment that they are obliged to God himself. He therefore well fore-saw how soon his Miracles and Wonders in *Egypt* would be forgotten, or attributed to Foreign Deities ; He therefore commanded

<sup>a</sup> *Numb. 17.10.* *Aaron's Rod* <sup>a</sup> and <sup>b</sup> the Pot of *Manna* to  
<sup>b</sup> *Exod. 16.33.* be laid up, and Stones to be erected at the  
<sup>c</sup> *Job. 4.7.* passing of *Jordan*, to be constant and standing Monitors to the descending Generations, of the Power and Bounty of God to their Fore-fathers ; and our Saviour had regard to the treacherous Memories of Mankind, when he

com-

commanded the frequent Commemorations of his Death and Passion, lest that grand Attchievement should slip out of the minds of men; so difficult it is for Sinners and Ungrateful men to record a Favour. The Pagans Adorn'd their Temples with their *αριθμητα*, the Spoils of their Battels and Victories, in Honour and Memory of the Assistant Deity: and the Sailers having escaped a shipwrack, hung up their *Vestes Votivas* unto *Neptune*, to record the favour of the Sea-god. We tell the long stories of our Sorrows to the Neighbourhood, we proclaim our griefs like *Jeremy*, *All you that pass by, is there any sorrow like to my sorrow? or any grief like to my grief?* We pen down the black dayes, write the Effects of a devouring Flame, or Pestilence, Judgments upon Marble or Cedar with the Pen of a Diamond, we tell them to our Children, *O passi graviora!* and entail them upon Posterity; but for Mercies and Favours, we cry not with the *Psalmist*, *Come and see what God hath done for my Soul*; we hush them in Silence, we Degrade and Vilifie them, to Advance our own Wisdom and Power, and say  
of

of them as Nebuchadnezzar of his Babylon, *Is not this great Babylon that I have built for my Honour and Renown?* Injuries and Affronts we write down in inde-  
lible Characters, the Persons, and Time, and all the aggravating Circumstances are ever fresh and green,

---- *manet alta mente reposum*  
*Judicium Paridis* ----

and never laid aside but upon a Sacra-  
mental day, and taken up the next. Though our Memories for Benefits at first may be fresh and brisk, yet the sudden Flame of Joy at length changeth its ruddy Complexion, grows pale, and endeth in Ashes, and is blown away. And this day began to lose its Solemnity, had it not been re-  
viv'd by the New Traiterous Designs and Contrivances of the same sort of bloody men.

a History of the  
Powder Plot.  
p. 7.

<sup>a</sup> And if these bold Conspirators, having found the Cellar for their Design, directly under the Royal Throne, did seem to perswade themselves from that Accident, that God by a secret Conduct did favour the Attempt, we may now justly turn Pro-  
vidence

vidence upon them, and in this strange Deliverance acknowlege the hand of God; in a true Remembrance therefore of this great Deliverance, the Knife being taken from our Throat, the Flame quench'd, the Snare broken, and the Tempest calm'd, and the Church and State, and every private Person riding at an Anchor in a quiet Haven, let us acknowledge our mighty Benefactor with our *Psalmist*, and say, *Our help is in the Name of the Lord who hath made Heaven and Earth.*

Secondly, A Dependance upon future Providence. <sup>a</sup> *Hitherto* (said the good man) <sup>a 1 Sam. 7.12.</sup> *hath the Lord helped us; he is God for ever, and changeth not, and his hand is stretched out still.* The Familiars of *Rome*, which haunt the Courts and Palaces of Princes, like the Devil in the *Gospel*, sometimes attempted to cast us into the Water, by the *Spanish Armado*; sometimes into the Fire, by this Conspiracy; and sometimes by Civil Wars and Rebellion (riding another sort of Men) they rent and tore us till we foam'd again. But Providence that commands the Waves and Flames, kept us secure, disposseſ'd the

see the Book  
called the  
grand Design  
of Papists in the  
Reign of  
Charles the  
First.

the Fiend, and we are in our Wits again, and under our own Vines of Peace and Safety. And though the ejected Spirit thinks to return again, and make our last Condition worse than our first ; yet we doubt not ( if our Prayers and just Zeal be not wanting ) that Providence will put a stop to him, and say to him as he doth to these proud Waters, the swelling Billows of the Ocean, *So far shall ye go, and no farther* ; for think not that your Saviour is enthron'd above only to hear the *Hallelujahs* of Saints, and enjoy his Triumphs, and listens not to the cries and groans of his Distressed Members here. He watches still, discovers their Dangers, feels their Wounds, and sends them Aids and Supplies, Power and Counsel to make them Successful, that the gates of Hell and all its Auxiliaries might not prevail against them. Let the Times look Black and Stormy, let Predictions be never so sad and gloomy, and we hear the sound of many Waters, and the Fiend and all his Confederates fit in full Consult for the ruin of Religion, and nothing else is heard but the noise of Ravens and Eagles for the

the dying Corps, yet we can stand secure, an Omnipotent Arm doth wield our Sword, and our Council is All-wise, 'tis he that neither Heaven above, nor Hell below, nor Earth and the Sea between, can skreen off his Divine and All-seeing Eye. The closest Dungeon and most secure Cell, neither Shade nor Night, as black as a Traytors Soul, can conceal their Policy from him that Orders and permits, Disposes and Prohibits for the Interest and Benefit of Religion, which tells us, *That all things shall confire for their good who truly worship him*; and that he that in former dayes did deliver us out of the paw of the Lion and the Bear, will deliver us from this Uncircumcised *Philistin*; and that we might not dispond and suspect his Promises, he doth further assure <sup>2</sup> us, *that Heaven and Earth shall pass away, but my Word shall not pass away*: and therefore let us not sink and despair, and cry out, *Master, we perish*; but see the Train of Powder, and view the Snare, all lying Innocent and Unactive, the whole Design of our Enemies Defeated; and with a grateful Mind sing the Triumphal Song

781-7-12

to God, with the Angels who stood about his Throne and worshipped, saying Amen, Blessing, and Glory, and Thanksgiving, Honour, and Power, and Might, be unto our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

THE THREE GREATEST CONSPIRACIES  
in the history of the world, are the  
Catholic Church, the Slave Power, and  
the Anti-Slavery Movement.

## FINIS.



Rev. 7. 12.

to God, with the Angels who stood about his Throne and worshipped, saying Amen, Blessing, and Glory, and Thanksgiving, Honour, and Power, and Might, be unto our God, for ever and ever. Amen.

# FINISH

